

Appl. No. : 09/836,855
Filed : April 16, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A voice activated audible order system for a fast food restaurant, wherein the restaurant food preparer worker does not receive food orders from a visual display, comprising:

a point-of-sale (POS) register in which food orders are entered;

a plurality of voice operated audible order modules, each module including:

a memory for storing a POS entry,

a text-to-speech synthesizer for converting the POS entries into audible speech, and

a speech-to-text circuit for recognizing and converting voice commands into control signals;

a router connected between said POS register and said voice operated audible order modules for selectively routing said POS register at least a portion of a first food order to a particular one first of said order modules and at least a portion of a second food order to a second of said order modules;

a first plurality of sets of microphones and a first headphones coupled to said first order module; and

a second microphone and a second headphone coupled to said second order module a wireless link respectively coupling said plurality of microphone and headphone sets to one of said voice operated audible order modules, whereby wherein the router is configured such that when a first restaurant worker speaks an audible command into a the first microphone [[and]] the first restaurant worker receives on the first headphones an audible synthesized voice reciting at least a portion of the first food order an order entered into said POS register without the worker having to view any visual display and without the second headphone receiving the audible synthesized voice reciting any portion of the first food order.

2. (Currently Amended) A voice activated audible order system for a fast food restaurant, wherein the restaurant food preparer worker does not receive food orders from a visual display, comprising:

a point-of-sale (POS) register in which food orders are entered;

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a voice operated audible order module coupled to said POS register, said module including:

a memory for storing said first and second a POS food orders,

a text-to-speech synthesizer for converting said first and second food orders ~~the POS entries~~ into audible speech, and

a speech-to-text circuit for recognizing and converting voice commands into control signals;

a microphone, a first headphone, and a second headphone,

a wireless link coupling at least one of said microphone and said first and second headphones to said voice operated audible order module,

wherein the system is responsive to an audible command spoken into said microphone by causing said first headphone to produce an audible synthesized voice reciting ~~an~~ said first food order and not said second food order entered into said POS register without having to view any visual display; the system capable of causing said second headphone to produce an audible synthesized voice reciting said second food order and not said first food order.

3. (Currently Amended) A voice activated audible order system for a fast food restaurant, ~~wherein the restaurant food preparer worker does not receive food orders from a visual display~~, comprising:

a point-of-sale (POS) register configured to record a food order;

a voice operated audible order module coupled to said POS register wherein said order module selectively and audibly sends only a first portion of the food order to a first food preparer worker in response to a voice command, said module including:

a memory,

a text-to-speech synthesizer coupled to said memory, and

a speech-to-text circuit;

a microphone and headphone; and

a wireless link respectively coupling said microphone to the input of said speech-to-text circuit and said headphone to the output of said text-to-speech synthesizer;

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wherein said system diverts a second portion of the food order different from the first portion to a second food preparer worker.

4. (Original) The voice activated audible order system of Claim 3, wherein said voice operated audible order module includes an intelligence circuit coupled to said memory, said intelligence circuit responsive to spoken commands to go back to a previous stored order or to advance to a subsequently stored order.

5. (Currently Amended) A voice activated order system[[s]] comprising:
a point-of-sale register;
a computer memory coupled to said point-of-sale register and
storing a plurality of orders entered into said point-of-sale register;
a speech recognition circuit responsive to audible commands spoken into a microphone and operatively coupled to said memory;
a speech synthesizer coupled to said memory for converting a stored order into speech when a predetermined command is spoken into said microphone;
an order module for sending data corresponding to a first portion of a food order to be converted into an audible voice for a first food service worker in response to a voice command from said first worker processed by said speech recognition circuit, the order module diverting a second portion to a second food service worker and
a set of headphones or the like connected to said speech synthesizer.

6. (Currently Amended) The voice activated order system of Claim [[5.]] 14 wherein a radio link connects to said microphone and said headphones respectively to said speech recognition circuit and said speech synthesizer.

7. (Currently Amended) A voice activated order method for a fast food restaurant in which the food preparer workers does not receive food orders from a visual display comprising:

entering food orders into a point-of-sale (POS) register;
temporarily storing as digital data said entered food orders;
said a first food preparer worker speaking an audible command into a microphone;
recognizing said command to connect said command into a control signal; and

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using said control signal to initiate converting stored digital data relating to a first food order into synthesized speech audibly transmitted to said first food preparer,

wherein a second food preparer worker receives audibly transmitted food order data without receiving the data transmitted in response to a command from the first food preparer.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 7, including automatically diverting certain orders so that all POS entries are not ultimately received by a single food preparer worker but or instead filled by at least one other worker.

9. (Original) The method of Claim 8, including automatically routing each of said food orders to a selected one of a plurality of temporary data storage memories.

10. (Currently Amended) A voice activated food order method comprising:
storing a plurality of food orders in a computer memory;
recognizing an audible command; and
causing a first stored order in said computer memory to be supplied to a speech synthesizer;

communicating along a first communication line said first order to a first food worker as an audible communication; and

communicating along a second communication line independent of the first communication line a second food order to a second food worker.

11. (Original) The method of Claim 10, wherein said audible commands include short one-syllable words, such as GO, AGAIN, BACK, NEW.

12. (New) The voice activated audible order system of Claim 3, wherein the drink portion of each food order is diverted to said second food preparer worker.

13. (New) The voice activated audible order system of Claim 1, further comprising a wireless link respectively coupling said first order module with said first headphone and said second order module with said second headphone.

14. (New) The voice activated order system of Claim 5, further comprising a set of headphones or the like connected to said speech synthesizer.